



Parliament of Montenegro

# NEWSLETTER OPEN PARLIAMENT

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ No. 39 ♦ June 2014

## CONTENT

**Legislative and oversight activity**.....2

**News from Parliament**.....7

*Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held in Strasbourg* .....7  
*President of the Parliament of Montenegro handed certificates to Democracy workshop participants* .....8  
*IX Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees of European Integration/Affairs of the Countries participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process of South-East Europe (COSAP) held* .....9

**Parliamentary glossary**.....8

**In Focus**.....10

**From the history of Montenegrin  
Parliamentarism** .....11

**From the Parliament's gallery**.....11

**Calendar**.....12

## IN FOCUS

*23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary  
Assembly held in Baku*

p.10



## PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY

*Do you know...  
what is parliamentary democracy?*

p.8

## FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM

*ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR  
ABOUT FORESTS*

p.11

## FROM THE PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

*COAT OF ARMS OF IVAN CRNOJEVIĆ*

p.11

# OPEN PARLIAMENT



Parliament of Montenegro

Newsletter on the Parliament of Montenegro Performance ♦ Electronic format ♦ Release: monthly ♦ Year IV ♦ No. 39 ♦ June 2014

## FOREWORD

*Dear readers,*

The key information on activities of the Parliament of Montenegro from 1 to 30 June is outlined in the June issue of the monthly newsletter "Open Parliament", prepared by the Parliamentary Service.

In June, the Second and Eighth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014 were held, as well as the Seventh and Ninth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014. At the Second Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014, eight laws were adopted. During June, committees considered 23 proposals for a law, six proposals for a decision and held other activities within their oversight role.

In focus of this month's newsletter is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Baku. The newsletter is published monthly as a part of the "Open Parliament" programme, within which the Parliament endeavours to bring its work closer to Montenegrin citizens. We consider this publication to be very significant as a reliable source of information regarding the work of the Parliament and we hope that you will find it useful.

We remain open to your comments and suggestions, as well as criticism, which can help us bring more quality to our work.

*Respectfully,*

*Service of the Parliament*



## LEGISLATIVE AND OVERSIGHT ACTIVITY

**At the Second Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014,** the following laws were adopted: Law on Combined Transportation of Cargo, Law on Responsibility for Environmental Damage, Law on National Parks, Law on Amendments to the Law on Sea Protection from Pollution from Vessels, Law on Basic Principles of Intelligence and Security Sector of Montenegro, Law on Ratification of Amendments to the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Enhancing Cooperation in Infrastructure Construction, Law on Supplements to the Law on Enforcement and Security and the Law on Deadlines for Settling Financial Obligations.

Under the item *Elections and Appointments*, Mladen Vukčević and Vesna Simović-Zvicer were elected as members of the Judicial Council. The Council of Radio and Television of Montenegro was appointed as well. Furthermore, Ilija Vujošević was appointed as member of the Jury for presenting the 13<sup>th</sup> of July Award. In addition, Momčilo Vuksanović was elected as a member of the Administrative Board of the Minorities' Fund.

**At the Eighth Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014,** discussions on 12 proposals for a law and several reports ended.

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

## Prime Minister's Hour and Parliamentary Questions

**At the Seventh Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014**, within the agenda item Parliamentary Questions, MPs' questions were answered by Minister of Education Slavoljub Stijepović. Four questions were posed to the Minister.

**At the Ninth Special Sitting of the First Ordinary Session of the Parliament of Montenegro in 2014**, under the agenda item Prime Minister's Hour, MPs' questions were answered by Prime Minister of Montenegro Milo Đukanović. Six questions were posed to the Prime Minister.

### Proposals for a law deliberated in Committees

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Removal and Transplantation of Human Organs for Therapeutic Purposes** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Explosive Substances** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on General Product Safety** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Market Surveillance** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget.
- **Proposal for a Law on Coastal Commons** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Agriculture and Rural development** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee and the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Olive Growing** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in the Field of Prevention of Natural and Other Disasters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia on Mutual Legal Assistance in Civil and Criminal Matters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and Government of the Republic of Macedonia on Mutual Execution of Court Decisions in Criminal Matters** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratifying the Further Additional Protocol to the Agreement among the States Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty and the other States participating in the Partnership for Peace regarding the Status of their Forces** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on State Audit Institution** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code** was considered by the Legislative Committee, however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Obligatory Relations** was considered by the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.
- **Proposal for a Law on the Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law**, submitted by MP Srđan Perić, was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Croatia on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants and the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Ratification of the Agreement on trade of arms** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Public Internal Financial Control** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Sales Tax on Used Motor Vehicles, Vessels and Aircraft** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget and Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Law on Civil Servants and State Employees** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Law on Supplements to the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.



Legislative Committee.

- **Proposal for a Law on Amendments to the Pension and Disability Insurance Law**, submitted by MPs Neven Gošović, Snežana Jonica i Aleksandar Damjanović, was considered by the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare and the Legislative Committee; however, it did not obtain the required majority.

*Proposals for which committees began deliberation during June are the following:*

- **Proposal for a Law on Supplements to the Criminal Code** was considered by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration, which postponed declaring on the proposal for another meeting.

#### *Proposals for other acts deliberated in committees*

- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee, which proposed to the Parliament to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Dismissal and Election of one member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro** was determined by the Administrative Committee, which proposed to the Parliament to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Decision on the Appointment of one member of the Jury for presenting the 13<sup>th</sup> of July Award** was determined by the Administrative Committee, which proposed to the Parliament to adopt it.
- **Proposal for a Decision on adopting the Annex no. 1 of the Contract on renting the hotel "Kraljičina plaža" – Budva** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on adopting the Annex no. 1 of the Contract on renting the hotels "Sveti Stefan" and "Miločer" in Budva** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Legislative Committee.
- **Proposal for a Decision on Establishment of the Interim Committee on supervising the work of state authorities, state administration authorities and local government bodies in view of the consistent application of the Law for Building Trust in the Election Process** was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption by the Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration. Same proposal was considered by the Legislative Committee, but it did not obtain the required majority.

#### *Other activities of working bodies*

- At the 68<sup>th</sup> meeting, 9 June, **Legislative Committee** supported 2013 Performance Report of the Committee and 2014 Work Plan of the Committee.

- At the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Political System, Judiciary and Administration**, opened on 20 June, the Committee considered 2013 Annual Report of the Judicial Council on the work of Courts in Montenegro. The declaring on the item was postponed for one of the upcoming meetings of the Committee.

At the 54<sup>th</sup> meeting, 23 June, the Committee unanimously supported the Report on the control hearing of the director and members of the Council of the Agency for Electronic Media on "Program standards in the electronic media - the consistent application of the Law on Electronic Media", with the proposed conclusions.



- At the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on International Relations and Emigrants**, 6 June, the Committee scheduled control hearing of Igor Lukšić, Vice President of the Government of Montenegro and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration for 16 June 2014. The hearing is to be held on the topic "Acting of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the occasion of granting concessions for oil and gas exploration in Prevlaka region", by which the "Protocol on the provisional regime along the Southern Border between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" has been violated.

At the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, 9 June, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Branislav Mićunović to the position of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Serbia on a residential basis, in Belgrade.



The same day, the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting was held, during which the Committee gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Branko Milić to the position of the Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Turkey on a residential basis, in Ankara.

At the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, 16 June, the Committee held control hearing of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Igor Lukšić. The topic of the control hearing was on "Acting of the Government of the Republic of Croatia on the occasion of granting concessions for oil and gas exploration in Prevlaka region".

At the 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, 30 June, the Committee gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Jovan Mirković to the position of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to Japan, who will perform his duty on non-residential basis, in Podgorica.

The same day, the 30<sup>th</sup> meeting was held, during which the Committee gave a positive opinion on the proposal to appoint Gojko Čelebić to the position of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Montenegro to Arab Republic of Egypt, who will perform his duty in Montenegro on non-residential basis, in Podgorica.

- At the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Committee on European Integration**, 5 June, the Committee considered Draft Negotiating Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro's Accession to the European Union for Chapter 2 - Freedom of movement for workers and Draft Negotiating Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro's Accession to the European Union for Chapter 28 - Consumer and health protection. Afterwards, the Committee unanimously adopted a proposal to amend Draft Negotiating Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro's Accession to the European Union for Chapter 2 - Freedom of movement for workers and Draft Negotiating Position of Montenegro for the Intergovernmental Conference on Montenegro's Accession to the European Union for Chapter 28 - Consumer and health protection. The Committee members unanimously adopted a positive opinion on the documents which were to contain the proposed changes, whereas, the Committee shall formally inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration on the aforementioned.



- At the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting, 4 June, the **Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget** supported 2013 Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro and got acquainted with the following: 2013 Report on stability

of financial system, 2013 Report on stability of prices and 2013 Annual financial statement of the Central Bank of Montenegro, together with the opinion of an independent external auditor; which, in line with the Law on the Central Bank of Montenegro, is submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro for informational purposes. On the occasion of considering the Performance Report of the Central Bank of Montenegro, the possibility of submitting a conclusion was announced. In addition, in line with Article 16 of the Law on Concessions, the Committee got acquainted with the 2013 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions of the Government of Montenegro, as well as with the level of implementation of five conclusions of the Parliament of Montenegro, as of 30 July 2013, regarding the consideration of the 2012 Performance Report of the Commission for Concessions.

At its 59<sup>th</sup> meeting, 6 June, the Committee continued with its activities regarding the exercise of parliamentary oversight of the Law on Financing of Political Parties. The conclusion was that the Constitutional Court of Montenegro has found that certain law provisions weren't in line with the Constitution of Montenegro and published international agreements.

At the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting, 13 June, the Committee got acquainted with 2013 Performance Report of the Investment and Development Fund and also with the Information on realisation of conclusions adopted by the Parliament of Montenegro on the occasion of consideration of the 2012 Performance Report of the Investment and Development Fund.

At its 61<sup>st</sup> meeting, 23 June, the Committee considered and proposed to the Parliament to adopt the Financial Report and the 2013 Performance Report of the Agency for Medicine and Medical Devices. In addition, the Committee considered financial statements with the Report on audit of financial statements and the 2013 Performance Report of the Insurance Supervision Agency, with regard to the implementation of parliament resolutions published in the "Official Gazette of Montenegro", No 57/13. Following the discussion, financial statements with the reports did not obtain the required majority.

At the 62<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Committee, 30 June, the 2013 Report on financial operations with the Performance Report of the Agency for Electronic Media was considered and proposed to the Parliament for adoption. The Committee also considered the 2013 Annual Performance Report of the Securities Commission and the state of the securities market. Following the discussion, the report did not obtain the required majority.

- At its 31<sup>st</sup> meeting, 2 June, **Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms** considered the 2013 Report on the state of data protection in Montenegro and 2013 Report on the state in the field of access to information in Montenegro, submitted to the Parliament of Montenegro by the Agency for Personal Data Protection and Free

Access to Information. The Committee supported the 2013 Report on the state of data protection in Montenegro and the 2013 Report on the state in the field of access to information in Montenegro, and proposed them to the Parliament of Montenegro for adoption.

At its 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting, 16 June, the Committee supported the 2013 Performance Report of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and proposed it to the Parliament for adoption.

- At the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the **Gender Equality Committee**, 30 June, the Committee strongly condemned the publication of articles and photographs whose objective is to discredit and belittle women, to degrade them as human beings. They also condemned the statement that promotes violence, and that identified women and children as victims. The Committee proposed that the previously approved provision to abolish defamation as a criminal offense be reviewed. In addition, the Committee unanimously supported the 2013 Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Gender Equality (2013-2017).



- At the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting of the **Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports**, 24 June, the members got acquainted with goals and importance of the conference "Quality education for better schools, better student achievement and the future", that will be held in Podgorica, on 8-10 July 2014.
- At the 45<sup>th</sup> meeting, 6 June, **Committee on Health, Labor and Social Welfare** considered the realisation of conclusions reached at the meeting held regarding the strike of disabled workers from the North of Montenegro. The following also attended the meeting: Predrag Bošković, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare; Bojana Martinović, Chief of Cabinet at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; Jovo Pajović, Director of Directorate for Pension and Disability Insurance, Veteran and Disability Protection to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; Dušan Perović, Director of Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of Montenegro; and Lazar Knežević, representative of disabled workers from the North of Montenegro.

At the 46<sup>th</sup> meeting, 12 June, Chair of the Committee Zoran Jelić acquainted members of the Committee with the Request submitted by NGOs regarding the adoption of the Rulebook on Implementation of the Law on Health Care, in part related to the alternative

practices. Additionally, the Committee considered a Request submitted by Rašo Čivović, a disabled person from Nikšić. Afterwards, members of the Committee reached a conclusion stipulating that the Committee send a memo to Commercial Court, Ministry for Economy, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare on the grounds of allegations raised in the petition of Rašo Čivović. The same note will be sent to the Independent Trade Union of Bauxite Mine Workers JSC Nikšić and Trade Union Organisation of Bauxite Mines JSC Nikšić.

At its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting, 19 June, the Committee considered Information on the effects and results of the work of the Administration for Inspection Affairs on combating labour market grey economy in 2013 and 2014 (January and February) and Information submitted by the Pension and Disability Insurance Fond. It was concluded that the submitted Information was precise, and that it contained the required data, hence it would be forwarded to the Party of United Pensioners and Disabled of Montenegro.

At the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting, 24 June, the Committee considered Status Report on children's rights in Montenegro. In addition to the members of the Committee, Head of the UNICEF Office to Montenegro Benjamin Perks and the Director of the Statistics Office of Montenegro Gordana Radojević, the meeting was also attended by the representatives of civil society dealing with children's rights in Montenegro.

- At the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, 30 June, the **Anti-corruption Committee** performed the control hearing of the Minister for Economy Vladimir Kavarić and the director of the Intellectual Property Office, regarding the petition of the Association of composers of Montenegro.
- At the 36<sup>th</sup> meeting, 4 June, the **Administrative Committee** gave a positive opinion on the Rulebook on Amendments to the Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Systematisation of Professional Service of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, of 8 May 2014. In addition, the Committee determined three proposals for a decision and decided to propose to the Parliament to elect: MP Emilo Labudović as a member of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare of the Parliament of Montenegro; MP Milutin Đukanović as a member of the Committee on Human Rights and Freedoms of the Parliament of Montenegro, and to appoint Ilija Vujošević as a member of the Jury for presenting 13<sup>th</sup> of July Award.



Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



### *Summer Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held in Strasbourg*

Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE participated in the Summer Session of PACE, which took place on 23-27 June in Strasbourg. The Montenegrin delegation to PACE consisted of the following: Predrag Sekulić, Damir Šehović, Mladen Bojanić and Snežana Jonica.

At the opening of the Summer Session of the PACE, the President Anne Brasseur welcomed the recent initiatives from the President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, to establish a cease-fire, and initiate constitutional reform, which gave hope for future development of events in that country.



The first day of the Session, the Report on the presidential and early parliamentary elections in Macedonia, and the Report on early presidential elections in Ukraine, were reviewed. In addition, 2014 Report on the activities of the Assembly's Bureau and Standing Committee during Spring/Summer sessions was presented.

Members of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the meeting of the Socialist Group and also in the meetings of the following: Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy and Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media.

Second day of the Session, the PACE re-elected Thorbjørn Jagland as Secretary General of the Council of Europe. New five-year term of office of the Secretary General will start on 1 October 2014. During plenary, there were discussions on migration and the large number of irregular migrants who arrived on the Italian coast because of tensions in the South Mediterranean countries. In addition, a discussion was led about violence in the media and through the media.

Members of the Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro also took part in the meetings of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy,

Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development.

The third day of the Session, discussions were led on the efforts for creating better European democracy and challenges that federal Europe had been facing. The ceremony to commemorate the First World War took place. On that occasion, PACE President Anne Brasseur, stressed that creating an international order without dialogue was impossible. She reminded that the Council of Europe had been founded in a spirit of dialogue, cooperation and openness, in order to create foundations for sustainable peace and respect of human rights of citizens. In addition, she emphasised that the role of the Council of Europe was more important today than ever before, because several activities must be undertaken in order to guarantee European citizens the exercise of human rights, particularly the right to peace and a fearless life.

Members of the delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE participated in the meetings of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Culture, Science, Education and Media, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Sub-Committee for Persons with Disabilities and inclusion and the Subcommittee on Gender Equality, as well as in the meeting of the Socialist Group. They also attended a number of social activities.

Within the campaign of the Council of Europe "One in five", with Montenegro being part of it, the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Network of parliamentarians for the fight against sexual violence against children was held. The topic of the meeting was: "Participation of youth-agents for the prevention of sexual exploitation".

On the fourth day of the Session, the discussion was led on political and humanitarian consequences of the crisis in Ukraine, followed by the address of the newly appointed President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko.

MPs Predrag Sekulić and Mladen Bojanić participated at the meeting of the Committee for monitoring, where a Report on the visit of co-reporteurs of the Committee for Monitoring to Montenegro was presented, realised in the period from 14 to 16 April 2014.

During the day, members of the Montenegrin

delegation took part in meetings of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development, the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination and the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

On the final day of the Session, a discussion was led on strengthening the independence of the Strasbourg Court. Even though various measures have been taken over the years to strengthen the independence of the Court, there is still room for improvement according to the opinion of the Assembly.

### ***President of the Parliament of Montenegro handed certificates to Democracy workshops participants***

**P**resident of the Parliament of Montenegro Ranko Krivokapić handed certificates to elementary school students from all over Montenegro, that participated in the democracy workshops on topics "Democracy and Parliament" and "European Union", from December 2013 to June 2014. On this occasion, children from 59 Montenegrin elementary schools and 19 municipalities, were awarded 2934 certificates.



On this occasion, President Krivokapić addressed the Democracy workshops participants, as follows: "You are not only the future of Montenegro, you are the future of Europe. New Europe, which is vital and can create a new better life for all its citizens. We are proud of you and you are the first to participate in this program in the Western Balkans. We are very proud that in less than two years, from October 2012 until

Also, parliamentarians debated the extent to which the judiciary is adapted to minors. PACE has called on states to set the minimum age of criminal responsibility at 14 years at least, with no exceptions even for serious offences, and for the creation of a range of suitable alternatives to formal prosecution for younger offenders.

During the final day of the Summer Session, the meeting of the PACE Bureau was held, attended by the Head of the Montenegrin delegation Predrag Sekulić. At the meeting of the Bureau, members discussed the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly and its working bodies in the future.

June 2014, nearly 10,000 Montenegrin children and 700 professors passed through the Parliament of Montenegro and Democracy Workshops. When you have such a lively, fluctuating democracy in a small country, a democracy that is constantly in motion, then we know that our Parliament has the capacity to organise together with other entities something that is spreading of idea of welfare, the common good for generations to come.

This project is the reason why people are involved in the public work, to see that the young, new generations will be better than them, and that those generations will lead our country in a better way, a European country with more rule of law, stable and rich, with more solidarity and thus happier.

The Parliament of Montenegro will continue with the implementation of this project. I owe gratitude to my Austrian colleague Barbara Prammer, who supported this project through the Erste Foundation, and now the project is Montenegrin and it will be forever. This will be a continuous project that will last while there is democracy in Montenegro", stated Krivokapic.

President Krivokapic thanked all the parents, teachers, trainers and project managers for all the care, work and effort.

## **PARLIAMENTARY GLOSSARY**

**Parliamentary democracy.** "Parliamentary democracy is a form of democratic government that operates through deliberative assembly, which represents an indirect link between the government and the ones being governed. Democracy basically represents an accountable and representative government. Parliamentary democracy is therefore a balance between citizen participation and the governing elite: the government is not directly accountable to the public, but to its elected representatives. This system is appealing because thanks to the education and the opportunity to consider and discuss, those representatives are supposedly more capable than the citizens at choosing what's in their best interest."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hejvud, *Politika (Politics)*, Beograd, Clio 2004, p. 148



## ***IX Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees of European Integration/Affairs of the Countries participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process of South-East Europe (COSAP) held***

**I**X Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees of European Integration/Affairs of the Countries participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process of South-East Europe was held on 2-3 June in Budva. The meeting was dedicated to topics, such as: key challenges in implementing internal reforms in the context of European integration, regional and local approaches to the use of pre-accession funds and transparency and inclusiveness as important elements of the process of European integration. The following attended the meeting: Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović, Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič, member of the Committee on European Affairs of the Croatian Parliament Igor Kolman, Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro Ferdinand Nagy, General Director for European Integrations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Republic of Montenegro Snežana Radović and others.



The meeting was opened by the Head of the EU Delegation to Montenegro Mitja Drobnič, who emphasised that national parliaments had a special role in the negotiation process, which had been reflected in making recommendations relating to improving the quality of undertaken reforms, careful monitoring and controlling of the work of institutions as well as informing the public about the course and nature of negotiations. Drobnič stated that reforms in the integration process required significant legislative and institutional adjustments as well as financial resources necessary for the implementation of European standards.

In his introductory statement, Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović stated that he believed that in time of intensive integration process, which was also characterised by new circumstances in terms of the renewed approach to the Union in the negotiation process, parliamentarians should participate in COSAP work with full capacity, strengthening structures of regional cooperation, and contributing to finding guidelines for accelerating the integration process - through constructive dialogue and exchange of previous experience. In addition, political, economic and pragmatic reasons for the existence of the EU as we know it should be taken into account. "Only

if we are willing for enlargement as a constructive process, where both parties - EU member states and aspiring countries have a clear vision for the future of Europe, the existence of the EU will have the full sense. Otherwise, Europe can be organised for different interests, but then the initial interest has to be sacrificed", Radunović stated.

Igor Kolman, member of the Committee on European Affairs of the Croatian Parliament and Snežana Radović, General Director for European Integrations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro were keynote speakers during the first session on the key challenges in implementing internal reforms in the context of European integration.

During the discussion, the participants emphasised the importance of parliamentary oversight of the negotiation process, which gives democratic legitimacy to the integration, but also other elements that are crucial for quality negotiations: regional and inter-parliamentary cooperation through the exchange of experiences between the candidate countries and EU member states, strengthening the administration for the purpose of preparing a state to respond to the challenges that membership negotiations carry, as well as the transparency of the process and communication with the public about the benefits and disadvantages of EU membership.

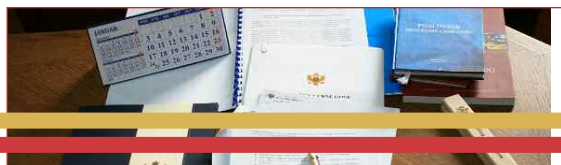
Aleksandar Bogdanović, Mayor of Old Royal Capital Cetinje and Dragoslav Šćekić, President of Berane Municipality were the keynote speakers on the topic of local and regional approaches in the use of pre-accession funds, who presented experiences of their municipalities in using IPA funds.

Keynote speaker at the last session dedicated to transparency and inclusiveness as important elements of the process of European integration was Ferdinand Nagy, Ambassador of Romania to Montenegro. The concept of transparency does not involve only public access to information about the activities of the Union, but also writing of legislative texts which should be accessible and understandable to citizens, and EU has already set clear procedural rules on the aforementioned, Nagy stated.

During the meeting, participants also spoke about floods of immeasurable proportions that have recently occurred in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia. Praising the tremendous solidarity expressed by citizens of the region with residents of flooded areas, participants of the COSAP agreed that initial gesture of solidarity and support should not be discontinued, but, on the contrary, regional cooperation should be strengthened in all fields, for the purpose of making regional countries able to respond in a proper manner to potential future disasters.

In addition to delegations of COSAP Member States and keynote speakers, the IX meeting COSAP was also attended by representatives of regional initiatives - RCC and RSPC SEE, who adopted the Joint Declaration.

## IN FOCUS



### *23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly held in Baku*

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 28 June to 2 July, where parliamentarians from 57 countries discussed most current political, security and economic issues.

President of the Parliament of Montenegro and the OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić, in his Annual Session opening statement, stated that the Parliamentary Assembly, with its active role in the past year, has shown a clear willingness to be involved in the resolution of the most sensitive political and security issues.

"The Ukrainian crisis has put to the test all the capacities of the OSCE, to achieve the basic purpose of its existence - peace and stability in Europe. With the great political engagement, presence on the field, courage and sacrifice of representatives of all the institutions of the OSCE, consistently without the right to withdraw, we contribute to finding solutions to the Ukrainian crisis", Krivokapić stated. He reminded of the parliamentary meeting of representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian delegation to the OSCE PA, as an important contribution to the process of de-escalation, which was held in Vienna in April this year, in the very period of culmination of the crisis. Krivokapić thanked all structures of the OSCE for cooperation, in particular the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Swiss Confederation President Didier Burkhalte.

At the opening of the Session, remarks were delivered by Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office and the Swiss Confederation President Didier Burkhalte, as well as the Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan Ogtay Asadov.

President Krivokapić organised the meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian parliamentary delegation for the second time, on the subject of the Ukrainian crisis.

After the first meeting held in Vienna, on the initiative of President Krivokapić as well, at a meeting held in Baku, the Russian and Ukrainian delegations agreed that a special international parliamentary group should be formed that would address a number of important issues with the aim of de-escalation of the situation in crisis areas of Ukraine. Parliamentarians of other OSCE participating States will be members of this group, aside from the Russian and Ukrainian parliamentarians. In addition to participating in the work of the group, parliamentarians of these two

countries will continue their bilateral dialogue through their delegations to the OSCE PA.

President Krivokapić said that the reached agreement was the success of parliamentary diplomacy in the framework of the OSCE PA, which was also an indication of the parliamentary political maturity in dealing with such a sensitive issue as Ukraine crisis.



President Krivokapić, within the OSCE PA plenary session, opened the special debate dedicated to the Ukrainian crisis. Speaking about the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in resolving serious security issues he said he was pleased that the Parliamentary Assembly had shown commitment and responsibility to deal with the problems, not just talk about them. President of the Parliament of Montenegro, Ranko Krivokapić, was elected Honorary President of the OSCE PA, under the new leadership of the Parliamentary Assembly, at the 23<sup>rd</sup> OSCE Annual Session.

At the Session, the final Declaration was adopted, titled: "Helsinki +40: Towards Human Security for All". The Declaration sets out priorities that the Parliamentary Assembly should rely on in future actions, which are related to political and security issues, economic issues, as well as issues related to democracy, human rights and humanitarian issues.



# FROM THE HISTORY OF MONTENEGRIN PARLIAMENTARISM



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ABOUT FORESTS

16/26 April 1909

### ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES ABOUT FORESTS

#### I Classification of Forests

##### Article 1.

Forests shall be classified into: state, tribal, municipal, village, church and private forests.

##### Article 2.

In each rural municipality, the responsible tribe captain shall establish a Commission consisting of three honest and conscientious municipality officials, headed by the head of kmets.

The main task of the Commission shall be to ensure proper cultivation and safeguarding of forests, and within the limits of the announcement oversee state, tribal, municipal, village, church and private forests. Forest owners shall handle them properly, and within the limits of the announcement.

The responsible tribe captain shall be charged with conducting direct oversight of the Commission's work and, when necessary, ask for instructions from the Ministry of Interior and meet the obligations set by the Ministry.

#### II Management of state, tribal, municipal, village and church forests

\*\*\*

##### Article 21

It is strictly prohibited to build campfire, burn logs, tree stamps and trees that have not been removed.

Shepherds, workers and other individuals performing activities in the forest shall be allowed to build campfire only in safe places. However, upon their departure, they shall put out the fire and cover the area with turf.

##### Article 22

If unquenched fire comes to somebody's attention while in the forest, they shall be obligated to put it out. The ones who notice the fire in the forest are obligated to inform civil and military authorities as soon as possible, who shall gather soldiers from one or more villages for the purpose of putting out the fire.

Military government shall manage their activities, prevent the fire from spreading and if possible put it out. In addition, it shall leave someone on watch so that the fire doesn't reoccur.

In areas that previously caught fire, it shall be prohibited to sow anything else other than forest seeds, even if private property.

\*\*\*

Nº 2404  
16 April 1909

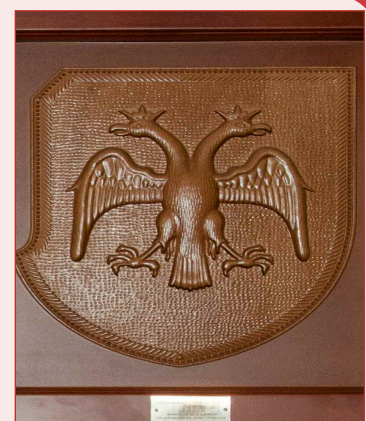
Minister of Interior  
J.S. Plamenac

### From the Announcement of the Ministry of Interior about Forests

Pavićević, B, Raspopović, R, ur. Crnogorski zakonici 1796-1916, knj. IV( Montenegrin Codes 1796-1916, Book IV), Podgorica, Istorijski institut Crne Gore, 1998, pp. 726-735

## FROM PARLIAMENT'S GALLERY

The most prominent ruler of the Crnojević dynasty was Ivan (1465-1490). During his reign, the idea of state autonomy and independence of the "black mountains state", latterly known as Montenegro, was being developed and established. The coat of arms of Ivan Crnojević is shown as a golden double-headed crowned eagle, placed on a red shield. The golden double-headed eagle symbolises generosity, strength, greatness, resistance to the enemy, as well as unity of spiritual and worldly governments. Just above the eagle's heads, there are two crowns, which symbolise sovereignty and represent the spiritual and wordly ruler.



Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.



# CALENDAR



## 1 June

- At the invitation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Public Health of the National People's Congress of China, Delegation of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Parliament of Montenegro consisting of: Branka Tanasijević, Chair of the Committee and the Head of Delegation, Srđa Popović, Draginja Vuksanović, Jelisava Kalezić and Radosav Nišavić, members of the Committee, paid a study visit to the People's Republic of China. The Delegation of the Committee had the opportunity to get thoroughly acquainted with the Chinese system of education in general, especially with the system of education of Shanghai and its students, known for constantly achieving the best results at a global level.



## 2 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received the Executive Director of NGO MANS Vanja Čalović. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the President with the preliminary report and conclusions about the local elections held on 25 May this year in Montenegro. President Krivokapić, received the report with conclusions and expressed gratitude to MANS for the work and contribution they had made through observation of the electoral process. The interlocutors jointly emphasised that confidence in the electoral process was one of the crucial priorities of state and the society as a whole, because it was the basis for strengthening of democracy in Montenegro and it was the process closely related to the integration path of our country.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Parliamentary Committees of European Integration/Affairs of the Countries participating in the Stabilisation and

Association Process of South-East Europe was held. The meeting was dedicated to topics, such as: key challenges in implementing internal reforms in the context of European integration, regional and local approaches to the use of pre-accession funds and transparency and inclusiveness as important elements of the process of European integration.

## 3 June

- President Krivokapić received Jordi Xucla, Member of the Spanish Parliament and Chairman of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. During the meeting it was assessed that the two parliaments have good relations, and intensive cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Krivokapić thanked Xucla on his initiative in the Parliament of the Kingdom of Spain, on 28 April 2014, which resulted in unanimous adoption of the Resolution calling upon the Government to support Montenegro's candidature for full-fledged NATO membership, at the summit in Wales. Krivokapić emphasised that the Resolution was the result of mutual friendship and cooperation that should continue to deepen. Xucla stated that results of Montenegro in the Euro-Atlantic path were clearly visible to everyone, and that Montenegro continues to be recognised as a leader in the region in terms of reform and integration process.



- Chair of the Gender Equality Committee Nada Drobnjak and Deputy Chair Goran Tuponja participated in the Regional Conference Coalition for Equality STEP, organised by the Center for Civic Education in Podgorica. The STEP is a coalition of NGOs from Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo, organised with the aim to fight against discrimination at the regional level.

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

# CALENDAR



## 4 June

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro participated in the Annual Meeting of Regional Parliamentary Defence and Security Committees, which took place from 4 to 6 June 2014 in Zagreb, in the organisation of RACVIAC-Centre for Security Cooperation. Chair of the Security and Defence Committee Mevludin Nuhodžić and member of the Committee Velizar Kaluderović attended the meeting. In addition to representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro, the following also attended the meeting: representatives of Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Romania and Turkey, representatives of Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and others.



- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić participated in the "European Youth Summit: 100 for the Next 100 in the Danube Region", which took place on 4-8 June in Sarajevo. The European Youth Summit, on the occasion of 100th anniversary of the World War I, has gathered 100 young professionals from 17 countries, with different educational and professional background from the Danube Region and South East Europe. Various aspects of challenges Europe is facing and will face in the future had been discussed at the Summit. The Summit was organised by members of the Forum Alpach Network from Bosnia and Herzegovina (IGAS), Serbia (KAB), Croatia (KAH) and Montenegro (IGAP), with the support of the European Forum Alpach and the Danube Competence Center.
- President Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany and, as the President of the OSCE PA, was the key speaker in the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), on the topic: "The conflict in Ukraine: the start of a stronger role of the OSCE in conflict resolution". Krivokapić also visited the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, where

a discussion on the current situation in Ukraine was organised, and views were exchanged on the results of the OSCE observation mission during the presidential election. In addition, Krivokapić visited the German Council on Foreign Relations, where he spoke with Paul von Maltzahn, Secretary General of the Council. Krivokapić also spoke with Maria Böhmer, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Foreign Minister of Germany. Second day of the visit, Krivokapić met with President of the Bundestag Norbert Lammert as well as representatives of Bundestag MP clubs .



## 9 June

- MP of the Parliament of Montenegro and Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE Predrag Sekulić and members: Draginja Vuksanović and Mladen Bojanić, met with Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister for EU affairs and Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Turkey and his associates.



Mehmet Niyazi Tanilir, Ambassador of Turkey to Montenegro also attended the meeting. The interlocutors expressed willingness to continue cooperation of both Delegations to PACE, as well as the overall cooperation of both countries in all fields.

- President Ranko Krivokapić opened XVI Cetinje Parliamentary Forum, titled: "Women in business". In addition to President Krivokapić, the following also

# CALENDAR



attended the opening of CPF: Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Turkey; Ambassador Stoudmann, OSCE Special Representative for the Western Balkans; Goran Svilanović, Secretary General of the Regional Cooperation Council and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/Serbia and Montenegro, and numerous parliamentarians and representatives of governments of countries in the region.



- President Krivokapić met with Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, OSCE Special Representative for the Western Balkans. Krivokapić and Stoudmann assessed that the OSCE has always had a constructive role in establishing dialogue, especially in strengthening regional cooperation in order to strengthen the EU accession process. Stoudmann commended contribution Krivokapić has made so far as the President of OSCE PA.
- Chair of the Committee on European Integration Slaven Radunović and Deputy Chair Zoran Srzentić, as well as Danko Šarančić, member of the Committee met with Thorsten Frei, Co-rapporteur of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Committee on Affairs of the European Union of the German Bundestag to Montenegro. During the meeting, Frei assessed that the negotiations made so far were very successful and emphasised that Montenegro had come a long way in the process of European integration, as opposed to other countries in the region. Referring to the high percentage support of public to Montenegro's European path, members of the Committee assessed that when it comes to compliance of national legislation, a lot of work has been done. However, he added that in order to achieve further progress, strengthening of administrative capacities and implementation of European standards was needed.



- President Krivokapić met with Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, Minister for EU affairs and Chief Negotiator of the Republic of Turkey. Krivokapić and Çavuşoğlu assessed that the relations between Montenegro and the Republic of Turkey were good and in the trend of intensification in several areas of mutual interest. Krivokapić emphasised that Montenegro and Turkey, as Mediterranean states, had been facing similar challenges; hence, Montenegro's membership to NATO would lead towards its integration into the common security system, and make this European region more stable and safe. Çavuşoğlu conveyed that the Republic of Turkey was a friend of our country, and that Montenegro shall receive an unconditional support on its path toward the Euro-Atlantic integration.

## 10 June

- President Krivokapić handed certificates to elementary school students from across Montenegro, that have participated in democracy workshops of the Parliament of Montenegro on the topics "Democracy and Parliament" and "European Union", from December 2013 to June 2014. On this occasion, 2934 certificates were awarded to children from 59 Montenegrin elementary schools from 19 Municipalities.
- Members of the Security and Defence Committee consisting of: Obrad Mišo Stanišić, Radivoje Nikčević i Snežana Jonica, participated in the the seminar for MPs on the national security policy, which took place on 10-12 June 2014 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. During the seminar, MPs spoke with eminent lecturers and experts in the field of security and defence on current topics in this area, at regional and international level. In addition to representatives of the Parliament of Montenegro, the representatives of parliaments of Albania, Croatia

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.



# CALENDAR



and Serbia also participated in the work of the gathering.



- Head of Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro in the CEI Parliamentary Dimension Miodrag Vuković and a member of Permanent Delegation Danko Šarančić, participated in the meeting of the CEI Parliamentary Committee. The meeting, which was organised under the activities of the Austrian Presidency over the initiative, was dedicated to the topic: "Education as foundation for prosperity". At the end of the meeting, the text of the Joint Statement was harmonised and adopted, where conclusions and guidelines for national parliaments and governments of "CEI" member states were summarised.



## 11 June

- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro, consisting of: Luid Škrelja, Marta Šćepanović, Vladislav Bojović and Srđan Perić, paid a study visit to the Republic of Croatia. The visit included meetings with the Legislation Committee, Committee on the Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System, and Committee on Human and National Minority Rights of the Croatian Parliament. The Delegation was also received by Deputy Speaker of the Croatian Parliament Nenad Stazić. The Delegation also met with Head of the Government Legislation Office of the Republic of Croatia Zdenka Pogarčić, and representatives of the

National Community of Montenegrins in Croatia and Ambassador of Montenegro to the Republic of Croatia Igor Građević.

## 12 June

- Dritan Abazović, MP of Pozitivna Crna Gora spoke with Vladimir Cibulnik, Chargé d'affaires in the UK Embassy to Montenegro. Abazović and Cibulnik both agreed on the assessments that presidential elections in Ukraine were held in a peaceful atmosphere and expressed pleasure over the fact that Ukrainian citizens have elected their president during the first round. In addition, they agreed that dialogue must be opened and peace must be established in the east of the country. The conclusion was that it was necessary to hold parliamentary elections in Ukraine, as soon as possible, so that the country could have a stable government.

## 13 June

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE PA Ranko Krivokapić met with H.E. Izmir Talić, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Montenegro. During the farewell visit, Krivokapić and Talić assessed that relations between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina were good and even more-so strengthened through sharing the common Euro-Atlantic goals. Interlocutors expressed gratitude on mutual contribution to maintaining and additionally promoting good relations between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Krivokapić conveyed the wishes of Montenegrin citizens for Bosnia and Herzegovina to remediate the consequences of disastrous floods as soon as possible and emphasised that Bosnia and Herzegovina could still count on our help.
- President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with H.E. Ivana Hlavsova, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Montenegro. The interlocutors emphasised that there was a traditional feeling of friendship and closeness in the relations between Montenegro and the Czech Republic. Krivokapić emphasised that the Czech Republic was recognised as a partner country to Montenegro on its path towards the realisation of foreign policy goals. Hlavsova underlined that the Western Balkan countries were on the list of high priorities for the Czech Republic in terms of

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

# CALENDAR



encouragement in the process of Euro-Atlantic integration. Hlavsova conveyed that the Czech Republic was an active advocate of continuation of Montenegro's membership process to the North-Atlantic Alliance.

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Suljo Mustafić met with Delegation of Montenegrin Emigrants living in Bosnia and Herzegovina Šemsudin Hadrović and Erol Ramusović, representatives of the association of citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina originating from Sandžak. On this occasion, views were exchanged and the need for a higher cooperation of state institutions of Montenegro with institutions of our emigrants was pointed out. Mustafić acquainted his guests with the activities of the newly established parliamentary committee dealing with issues of emigrants as well as with legislative procedure of special Law on Emigrants. Additionally, during the conversation, student issues were pointed out – solving problems related to their student status in Sarajevo and other cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, through signing of specific agreements between relevant institutions of both countries.



**15 June**

- Within the activities of the Regional Network of Parliamentary Committees for Economy and Finance of the Western Balkan countries, there was a meeting between members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Parliament of Montenegro and members of the Committee on Economy and Finance of the Parliament of Republic of Albania, on the topic: "Parliamentary dimension of cooperation between Montenegro and the Republic of Albania in the field of transport". The following members of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget attended the meeting: Aleksandar Damjanović, Zoran Jelić, Milutin Đukanović, Mladen Bojanić, Almer Kalač and Nik Gjelošhaj.



**16 June**

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro met with Tricia Marwick, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. During the meeting, Mustafić stated that Montenegro was making progress towards the EU and NATO and that he very much appreciated the help and support of the European partners. Mustafić stressed the importance of strengthening institutions of the state, governed by the rule of law, especially the Parliament, through its legislative and oversight role. Marwick stressed that Montenegro has Scotland's full support in the political processes towards integration in the Euro-Atlantic structures. The interlocutors have expressed willingness to strengthen bilateral cooperation between Montenegrin and the Scottish Parliament as well as fostering other forms of cooperation in economic, industrial and cultural spheres.
- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro consisting of Slaven Radunović, Chair of the Committee on European Integration; Zoran Srzentić, Deputy Chair; and Predrag Sekulić, member of the Committee; participated in the plenary session of the Conference of European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union – COSAC, which took place on 16 and 17 June in Athens.



Topics discussed during the conference were the

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.



# CALENDAR



following: Challenges of the European Union through the example of the crisis in Ukraine, Democratic legitimacy in the postelection period, European employment strategy and investing in youth, in the context of overcoming the economic crisis.

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received a group of journalists, coming from the EU member states, that were paying a visit to Montenegro, within the project “Discovering Montenegro”. Krivokapić spoke with the EU journalists on the integration process of our country, the rule of law as well as the overall democratisation path of our country. The journalists expressed great interest, particularly for the area of the rule of law, hence, all of the questions pertained to the same area. Krivokapić emphasised that the rule of law was the most important challenge of Montenegro on its overall path towards the EU and NATO, and also that the rule of law reflected the society’s level of maturity.
- Secretary General of the Parliament of Montenegro Damir Davidović met with Secretary General of the Scottish Parliament Paul Grice who was paying a visit to Podgorica as part of the official visit of the Scottish Parliament President Tricia Marwick.



Secretary Generals exchanged their views on issues which are relevant to the work of parliamentary administration, with a special focus on activities realised for the purpose of strengthening the professional support to MPs’ work. Taking into account the similarity of challenges in their work, the emphasis was placed on the importance of exchanging experience at the level of parliamentary service in order to find a model of work that best matches specific circumstances of each Parliament. Davidović acquainted his interlocutor with the activities which had been carried out in this field, during the previous period. Davidović particularly referred to the activities related to preparation of administration to respond

more efficiently to the challenges arising from the accession process, as well as the activities related to implementation of reforms, necessary for the quality preparation of Parliament for the role of EU member state Parliament. The interlocutors agreed that strengthening of the work of the parliament was a process which entailed continuous improvement of knowledge and skills of employees, ultimately providing a more effective support to MPs in making informative decisions. In this regard, the emphasis was on the importance of strengthening research services of the Parliament and their independent and objective work. During the meeting, the discussion was also about the transparency of Parliament’s work and the importance of strengthening the relations with citizens, especially the young population.

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with a group of 11 journalists from EU member states, that paid a visit to Montenegro within the campaign for strengthening consciousness, on the topic: “Discovering Montenegro”, organised by the European Commission. Members of the Committee acquainted the journalists with the activities of the Committee, while the special focus was on the stronger role of the Committee in negotiating with EU and the mechanisms through which the Committee aims to promote the transparency of the said process. Additionally, the following topics were discussed: quality of foreign direct investment, respecting human rights, especially rights of national minorities; challenges Montenegro must face in order to achieve European standards and faster membership to the EU; fight against corruption and strengthening of independence and capacity of state institutions.



**18 June**

- Deputy Chair of the Committee on Tourism, Agriculture, Ecology and Spatial Planning Jelisa Kalezić met with Head of the Sector for Democratisation in the OSCE

Newsletter is a part of the programme “Open Parliament”, aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.



# CALENDAR



Mission to Montenegro Lia Magnaguagno. During the meeting, future joint activities between the Committee and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro in the environmental field were considered. Kalezić acquainted her interlocutor with the activities of the Committee which were already realised and also with the future activities. Magnaguagno presented support activities provided by the OSCE Mission in the environmental field. She referred to the significant role of the OSCE Mission in monitoring implementation of the Law on Strategic Environmental impact Assessment, as a mechanism which creates a link between environment and spatial planning. During the meeting, participants emphasised the importance of citizen participation in the decision-making process and implementation of decisions, where Aarhus Centres and School of Ecological Activism played a key role.



**19 June**

- Vice-President of the Parliament of Montenegro Branko Radulović met with representatives of EDS (European Democrat Students).



Representatives of EDS stressed the importance of EU enlargement to the Western Balkans and added that, at this point, the European Union has been applying a good approach. Additionally, representatives of EDS emphasised that a lot more work needed to be done and must be done in the area of strengthening the civil

sector, especially in the field of cross border projects, which can have a direct impact on better life of citizens. Ultimately, this is the reason why representatives of EDS organised the mission in the first place. Radulović expressed pleasure over their visit and the fact that this method helped the strengthening of the role of young population in the EU integration.

- Members of the Committee on European Integration met with representatives of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs of the Irish Parliament, headed by Dominic Hannigan. During the meeting, Montenegrin parliamentarians acquainted their guests with the competences and activities of the Committee since its foundation in 2012. In addition, they informed them of Committee's invested efforts in strengthening its role in the EU negotiating process, as well as Parliament's role as a whole. As significantly specified fact was the overall consensus between parliamentary parties and the high level of citizen support to the policy of European Integration of Montenegro to the EU. Irish parliamentarians commended the extraordinary progress of Montenegro in the accession process, especially taking into account the lack of professional capacity, which was prominent in all the small countries. Expressing desire to visit Montenegro again, the parliamentarians were interested in the level of international promotion of Montenegrin tourism, possibilities of improving the business environment, as well as the structure of foreign direct investment.



**20 June**

- President of the Parliament of Montenegro and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ranko Krivokapić received H.E. Pius Fischer, Ambassador of the FR of Germany to Montenegro in a farewell visit. During the meeting between President Krivokapić and Ambassador Fischer, it was jointly assessed that relations between Montenegro and FR of Germany were traditionally good and strong, especially in the field of Euro-Atlantic

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.

# CALENDAR



Integration. Krivokapić expressed gratitude to Ambassador Fischer for his personal contribution in strengthening relations and connections between the two countries, during his term of office in Montenegro. Fischer pointed out to the openness of our Parliament and commended it. The Ambassador assessed the contribution of the Parliament of Montenegro to the overall process of Euro-Atlantic integration as very important, and stressed that intensive cooperation between our Parliament and the Bundestag was very promising.

## 23 June

- President Ranko Krivokapić paid an official visit to the Republic of France. During his visit to Paris, Krivokapić met with President of the National Assembly of France Claude Bartolone, the President of the Senate of France Jean-Pierre Bel, Chairwoman of the Committee on National Defence and Armed Forces in the National Assembly of France, Patricia Adam, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defense and the Armed Forces of the French Senate Jean-Louis Carrère and Patrice Verchère, Chairman of the France-Montenegro Friendship Group at the National Assembly of France.



- Delegation of the Parliament of Montenegro to PACE participated in the Summer Session of PACE, which took place on 23-27 June in Strasbourg. The Montenegrin delegation to PACE consisted of the following: Predrag Sekulić, Damir Šehović, Mladen Bojanić and Snežana Jonica.

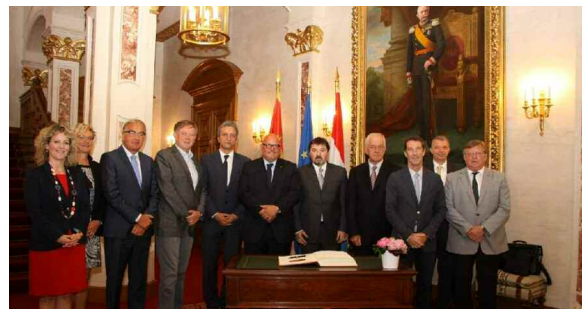
## 25 June

- Member of FORCA, Genci Nimanbegu, met with Turkish academicians – historians and professors from the University in Ankara: Muhammet Savaş Kafkasyalı, Bahadır Gucuyeter and Hasan Bekdes.



The interlocutors spoke on the topic of multicultural connections of Montenegro and Turkey. The interlocutors expressed interest in general and current state of Islam and religion in Montenegro, through the history, the present and prospects for the future - how would it be represented and how the future development of Islam and other religions and freedom was viewed.

- Delegation of the Committee on International Relations and Emigrants of the Parliament of Montenegro, consisting of Chair of the Committee Miodrag Vuković and MPs Mićo Orlandić and Koča Pavlović, paid an official visit to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The Delegation held meetings with representatives of state institutions of Luxembourg, as well as representatives of organisations founded by immigrants from Montenegro in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



## 28 June

- OSCE PA's 23rd Annual Session was held from 28 June to 2 July in Baku, where parliamentarians from 57 countries discussed most current political, security and economic issues. Special debates on the situation in Ukraine and challenges of the OSCE in the context of strengthening extremism, radicalism and xenophobia were held during the Session.

Newsletter is a part of the programme "Open Parliament", aimed at increasing transparency of work of the Parliament of Montenegro and citizen participation in the parliamentary activities. The newsletter is edited by the Service of the Parliament.